



### **Communications Overview**

# Karlene Barron Communications Administrator





## **Office of Communications**





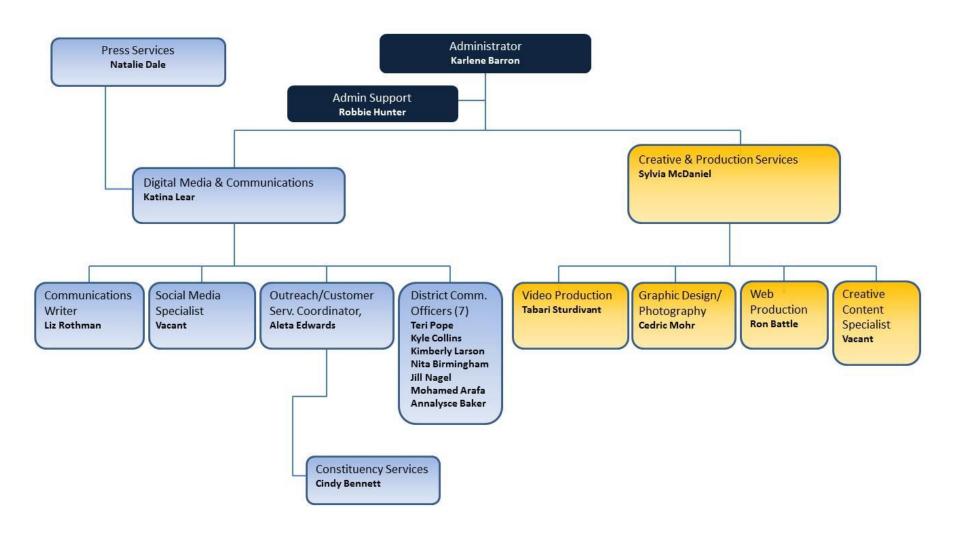


Inform Educate Communicate





# **Communications Org Chart**







### **GDOT Goals**

- Planning and constructing the best mobilityfocused projects on schedule, and on budget
- Making safety investments and improvements
- Making GDOT a better place to work will make GDOT a place that works better
- Taking care of what we have in the most efficient way





# **Communications Objectives**

- Educate and inform the public and our employees about project delivery, congestion reduction initiatives and to promote our role in economic development initiatives
- Enhanced focus on informing public about safety initiatives that are reducing fatalities
- Communicate to our employees their value to the organization and empower them to tell the Department's good stories
- Educate public about programs and projects that maintain, maximize our assets/facilities





# **Accomplishments – Press /DCOs**

- Responded to more than 1,600 media inquiries for interviews and information.
- Issued more than 1,350 press releases and alerts.
- Editorial campaign -- produced more than 20 op-eds, columns and feature pieces published in newspapers and magazines throughout the state.
- Summer Construction project outreach
- Project focused outreach and communications activities:
  - SR 20, Express Lanes, Northside Dr., Spring Street Bridge
- Wrote and produced 2015 Public Involvement Guide/PIOH
- Responded to approx. 3,888 constituent inquiries from Jan. to Oct.
  - 89% completed in three days or less





# **Accomplishments-Safety**







To address a startling increase in fatalities on Georgia's roadways in 2015. Georgia DOT launched DriveAlert ArriveAlive. The goal of this statewide safety campaign is to educate drivers about how makin simple changes in their driving behavior can prevent crashes and save lives. The campaign is a partnership between Georgia DOT, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and the Department of Public



#### Safety Messages

















#### Traffic Fatalities Up in Georgia

As of the six-month mark (ending June 30, 2015) there were a total of 662 fatalities - 114 more than the first half of last year. With an average of over 100 deaths a month, Georgia is on track for 1,200 or more fatalities in 2015. That would be the first increase in nine years!

662

Fatalities on Georgia roads in first half of 2015

a fixed object (free culvert or bridge)



Roadway fatalities in Georgia are single vehicle crashes - hitting Fatalities during the first six months of 2015 were pedestrians &







# **Accomplishments - Safety**





Drive Alert. Arrive Alive.

### Turning the tide on spike in Georgia traffic deaths

Traffic fatalities in Georgia are up significantly compared to last year. With an average of more than 100 deaths a month, we're on track for 1,200 fatalities or more in 2015. At this rate, we could see the first increase in traffic fatalities in nine years.

#### Changes in driver behavior can reduce preventable crashes.

Even more startling is that many are dying in preventable single vehicle crashes. In fact, 49 percent of traffic fatalities in Georgia this year are from a single vehicle crash.





Social Media Memes used on Twitter and Facebook



Bus back ad to be featured on GRTA Xpress buses





-991-

# **Accomplishments - Safety**



Placed in Welcome Centers around the State





### **Follow Us on Twitter**

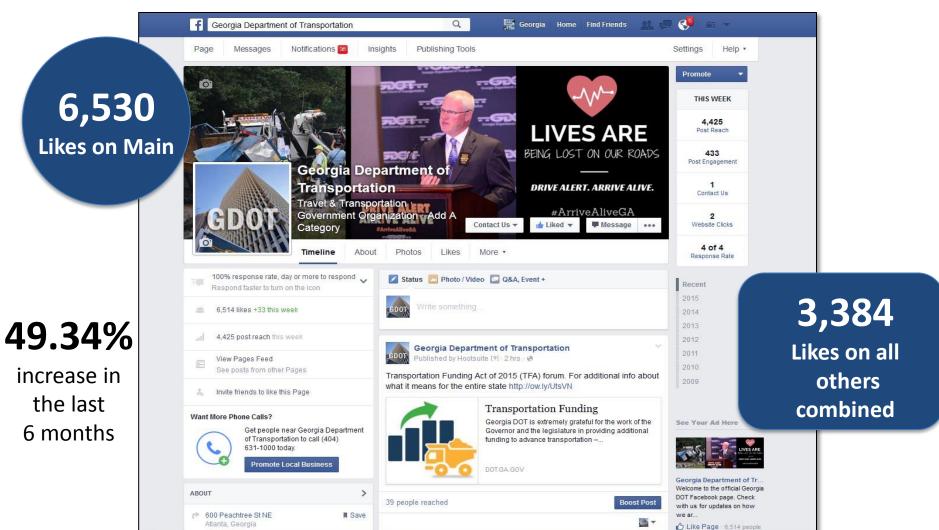


@GADeptofTrans





### Like Us on Facebook

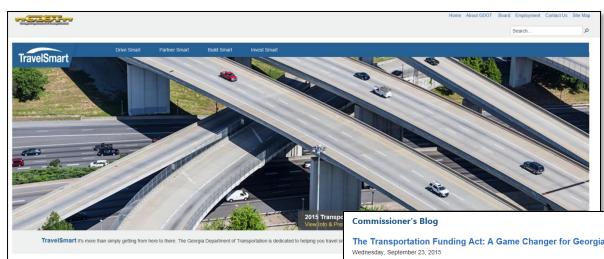


http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT





# Website/Blog



KEY SERVICES

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Submit Comments for Proposed Peachtree Road Project

### The Transportation Funding Act: A Game Changer for Georgia and Local Communities!

I believe that the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA) (aka HB 170) will be viewed historically as one the state's most important political infrastructure decisions - it is a true game changer for Georgia!

It provides a sustainable funding mechanism so that Georgia can address its critical infrastructure needs, such as taking care of the state's bridges, roads, drains, and basic maintenance needs as affirmed by the Legislature's Joint Study Committee for Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding. It shifts Georgia away from total federal funding dependency for our capital projects and provides Georgia DOT with flexibility to strategically utilize funds. However, the need for funding to address local needs still exists.

In hopes of addressing the continued local needs, the TFA 2015 provides local governments with a new funding mechanism that allows funds for transportation projects to be created by an incremental percentage sales tax up to 1% for five years. This provision modified the TIA/TSPLOST law that was in place when 3 of 12 Regions passed it back in the July 2012 referendum.

I certainly want to thank the Governor and the Legislature for adding this tool to the transportation tool box this year. Georgia will benefit from it for many years to come.

Local Governments now considering this new funding tool can look to the success to date of those three Regions, and they can have the confidence in the difference TSPLOST can make. Over \$352 million has been collected in less than three years to advance 145 projects in those regions. That is more than three years of funding that GDOT provides to all local governments. It is also greater than one-third of the total federal funds Georgia receives each year. These funds can be put to countless uses by local governments on everything from projects to equipment to operations.

Local governments should know that despite federal funding uncertainty, projects in the three TIA regions never slowed down. In fact, in January of this year, those were the only projects that advanced while we had over 100 federal projects on hold due to lack of federal funds. The federal uncertainty at the moment is very real, as there isn't a federal funding bill for next federal fiscal year (October 1). For a state agency, it is very difficult to plan and deliver transportation projects without funding certainty since the federal program is a reimbursable program. TSPLOST will provide that funding certainty.

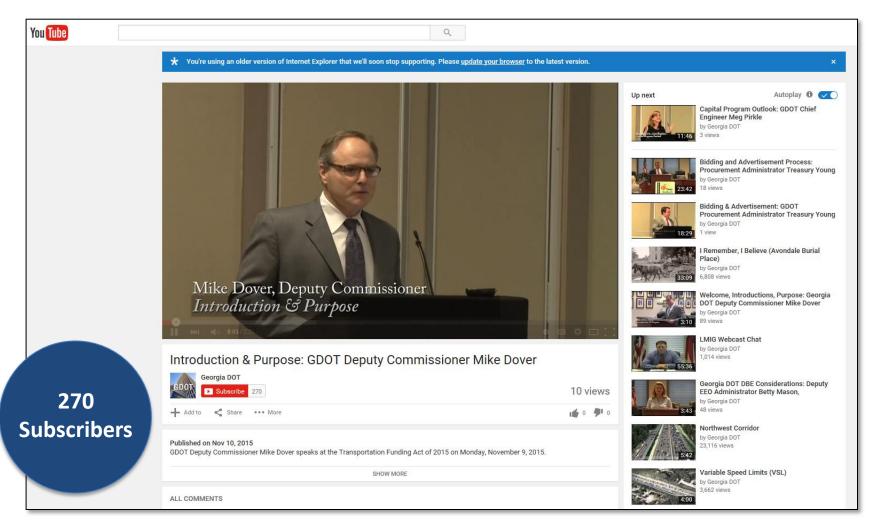
Another huge benefit is that many projects will not have to be coupled with federal funds which require many more regulations and processes; often resulting in added costs and delays. One great example is in Columbus where we received bids in August 2015 for a major interchange project that had nothing more than a napkin sketch in January 2013. The federal process could have easily added one to two

Furthermore. I'm encouraged by the conversations and resolutions being passed locally to advance TSPLOST around the state. This is evidence of local governments' understanding of the critical link between transportation infrastructure and economic prosperity. Transportation is a key driving force behind a strong economy and I applaud our local governments for doing all they can to ensure their economic prosperity. Georgia DOT certainly looks forward to working with any local government interested in discussing TSPLOSTI





### Watch Us on YouTube

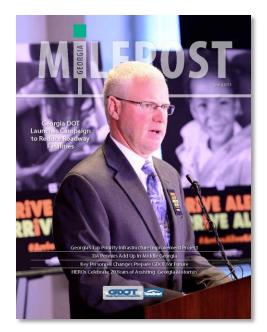


https://www.youtube.com/user/GeorgiaDeptofTrans





# Accomplishments



Quarterly Magazine



Monthly Wrap-up E-blast



Reference Guide 2016



**Board Newsletter** 





## **Upcoming – Centennial**

Celebrating A Century of Simply the Best in Safety, Service & Innovation!

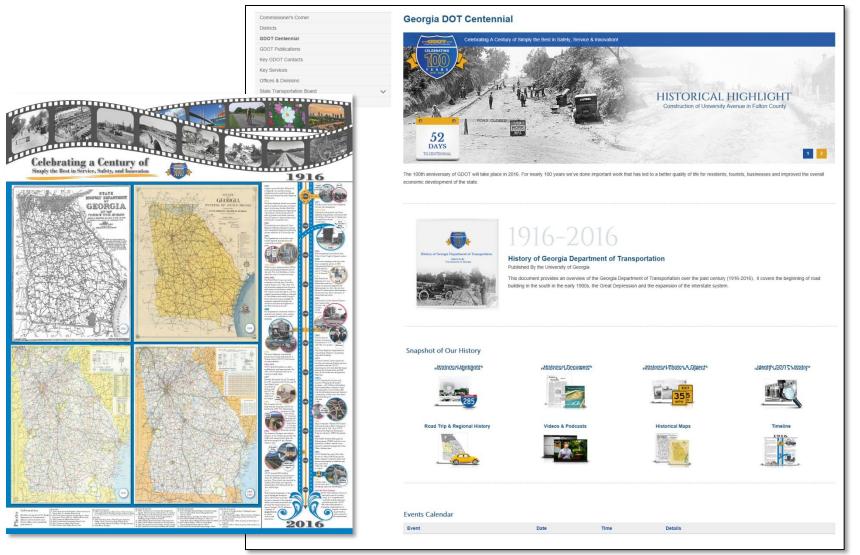
### **Events**

- Website Launch ... November 2015
- StoryCorps taping...December 15, 2015
- Centennial Kick off press event......January 2016
- District Events/Displays (Public Libraries, Community Events, etc.)
   (Year-long event throughout Districts)
- Student Art Contest (November '15 March '16)
- Georgia DOT 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day at Capitol/Proclamation from Governor Deal (March 29, 2016)
- Anniversary Day Celebration/Classic Car Tour of the state (August 16, 2016) (Actual event on August 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Employee Events PERW, Annual Meetings, District meetings
- In –state conference meetings GAMPO, ACCG, GMA





# **Upcoming – Centennial**





**Upcoming – Centennial** 









### EARLY 1900s ...







# **Upcoming – TFA 2015**

TravelSmart

rive Smart

Partner Smart

Build Sma

Invest Smart

Home -> Invest Smart -> Transportation Funding





### **Transportation Funding**





#### Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA 2015)

Georgia DOT is extremely grateful for the work of the Governor and the legislature in providing additional funding to advance transportation – funding that will help make Georgia the #1 state for business investment and economic development. The legislature recognized a need that was well demonstrated and we appreciate their hard work in making the additional funding a reality. This additional estimated \$830 million to \$1 billion in annual revenues will give us the opportunity to take care of our critical infrastructure and begin working through our backlog of capital maintenance projects that have been deferred.

Read More

**Construction Project Forecast** 



**Consultant Services Forecast** 



**Maintenance Service Contracts** 











# Questions?